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CIA agent speaks on terrorism

Professors ignore Woo; no permission asked for guests

By Paul Kullman

Soviet affairs specialist and academic coordinator of the CIA John Chomeau spoke to students in two classes yesterday about international terrorism and, in the process, ended a campus controversy.

Chomeau, wearing a gray three-piece suit and tinted glasses, began both classes with a half-hour speech and then answered questions.

He said terrorism is "a violent act against an innocent party for political effect on a group other than the victims."

He said the bombing of Libya would not decrease the amount of terrorism but pointed out that President Reagan had to take domestic politics into consideration also.

"The American people wanted him to do something," he said. He had to show he meant business."

A student made the observation that the bombing of Libya was a violent action in which innocent victims suffered for political effect — by Chomeau's definition, terrorism.

When asked about the recent meltdown at the Soviet nuclear reactor, Chomeau said the CIA is presently attempting to get people into the area to find out exactly what is going on.

Chomeau speaks five languages, including Russian. He used it while with the Soviet Navy for two weeks as an exchange officer. He said the Soviets thought he was simply a naval officer, not a CIA agent.

Chomeau, who joined the CIA in 1967 after receiving a Ph.D. in Soviet Studies at Notre Dame, said he thoroughly enjoys his work.

Marshall Windmiller, international relations professor, said he is critical of the CIA and wanted Chomeau to speak in order to give the students a different perspective.

He told his students they shouldn't argue with Chomeau about U.S. policy, as that is the concern of the White House and Congress. Instead, they should try to obtain more informaion about certain cases in which the CIA was involved.

International Relations Professor Dwight Simpson said, "I wish it were possible to have a retired CIA person come and speak to us because he would be able to talk more pointedly."

Chomeau said 30,000 people a year send in employment applications to the CIA. About 8,000 of those are fully processed at $20,000 each. This process includes psychiatric, medical, polygraph and language-ability testing. Only 1,500 are eventually hired.

Chomeau's visit brings to a close a controversy that began when SF State President Chia-Wei Woo sent a memo to International Relations Professor Marshall Windmiller, telling him to ask David Shipp, dean of the School of Behavioral and Social Science, for permission to open his classroom when Chomeau comes to class.

Windmiller refused and instead notified Shipp that Chomeau was coming to class. Woo said he interpreted this as "tacit" approval by Shipp and that his requirement had been met.

Woo later called the whole affair a "non-issue," saying he just wants instructors to use common sense when opening their classes to possibly-controversial speakers, and not that he wanted adminstrative approval of every speaker.

Yesterday Simpson, who also had Chomeau speak to his class, disputed that interpretation.

"To call it a 'non-issue' shows either insensitivity or incomprehen-sion," he said. "Academic freedom and constitutional liberty are at stake."

Simpson is currently embroiled in a suit against the university over a related issue. Last spring, Simpson invited Rabbi Meir Kahane, a controversial political figure from Israel, to speak to his International Relations class. The administration ordered the class open only to class members. Simpson and the American Civil Liberties Union claimed this was a restriction of academic freedom and sued the university.

Instead of continuing the suit, Simpson said he hopes a mutually agreeable written policy can be worked out with the administration so that it cannot arbitrarily close classes.

Yesterday, Simpson's class was open to the public. Windmiller's class was open only to students enrolled in the class and a group of invited guests.